

Claims:

1. A method for providing shared communication resource access, the method comprising steps of:

establishing a network of clients, wherein at least a plurality of the clients in the network of clients have a their own associated communication resource connection;

5 providing a communication protocol between the network of clients;

providing a protocol for sharing the communication resource connections of the at least some of the clients to the network of clients; and

10 spreading communications from a client in the network of clients among the communication resource connections of the at least a plurality of the clients in the network.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication protocol between the network comprises a wireless protocol that is implemented via a wireless medium.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication resource access comprises Internet access and the communication resource connections of the network of clients
15 comprise Internet access connections.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the network of clients comprises a wireless community.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein said steps of providing a protocol for sharing comprises:

20 accepting client session requests for a session with a device outside of the network of clients; and

providing a proxy between the device outside of the network of clients and a client requesting a client session.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of spreading comprises choosing one
25 of the Internet access connections based upon usage patterns.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of choosing is conducted on a packet basis.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of choosing is conducted on a session basis.

9. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of providing a proxy is implemented by a device within the network of clients.

10. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of providing a proxy is implemented by a device outside the network of clients.

5 11. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of providing a proxy is implemented by a device accessed through the Internet.

12 The method of claim 11, wherein said step of providing a proxy is implemented by a device within an Internet service provider that serves the network of clients.

10 13. A method for providing shared Internet access, the method comprising steps of:

pooling the Internet access connections of a community of clients into a resource available for bursts of traffics to a client in the community of clients by a network medium and protocol shared among the groups of clients; and

15 dividing bursts of traffic to or from a client of the community of clients across the Internet access connections created by said step of pooling.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the community of clients comprises a local wireless area network.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising steps of:

20 accepting client session requests for a session with a device outside of the community of clients; and

providing a proxy between the device outside of the network of clients and a client requesting a client session.

25 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said step of dividing comprises choosing one of the Internet access connections based upon usage patterns.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said step of choosing is conducted on a packet basis.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein said step of choosing is conducted on a session basis.

30 19. The method of claim 16, wherein said step of providing a proxy is implemented by a device within the network of clients.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein said step of providing a proxy is implemented by a device outside the community of clients.

21. The method of claim 15, wherein said step of providing a proxy is implemented by a device accessed through the Internet.

5 22. A gateway device implemented in software or hardware that performs steps of:

redirecting requests from a client of the gateway device to a proxy;

maintaining communications with other gateway devices in a client community via a medium utilized by the community

10 participating in selecting from among a plurality of communication resources in the community.

23. The gateway device of claim 22, wherein the communication resources comprise Internet access resources.

15 24. The gateway device of claim 23, wherein the gateway device further performs the step of forwarding packets for other clients in the community to an appropriate gateway device in the community.

25. The gateway device of claim 22, wherein the plurality of communication resources comprises separate communication resource accounts of clients in the community of clients.

20 26. The gateway device of claim 25, wherein the separate communication resource accounts of clients comprise separate Internet access accounts.

27. A remote proxy server to receive redirected requests from a gateway device in accordance with claim 22.